REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are now pending in this application. Claims 2-3 are indicated as including allowable subject matter. Claims 1-5 are rejected. No claims are cancelled. New claims 6-9 are added. No new matter is added. Claim 1 is amended herein to clarify the invention. Claim 2 is amended to rewrite claim 2 in independent format. Claims 1-5 are amended to address grammatical and idiomatic errors arising from translation, and thus more closely conform to U.S. practice.

The Examiner objected to the abstract. A substitute abstract is submitted to place the text thereof into proper English in accordance with 37 CFR 1.125(c). No new matter is added. Entry of the substitute abstract is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that, upon entry of the subject amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicants, thus, respectfully request consideration of the above amendment and remarks.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner notes that the claims appear to be a literal translation

of a foreign document. The claims are amended to conform with current U.S. practice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent format including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 is rewritten in independent format, including all the limitations of original claim 1 with changes made only to address the section 112 shortcomings. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, and accordingly depends from an allowable claim.

Prior Art Rejections and the Cited Art

Claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Visser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,842,388).

Visser at al. disclose a method of machining a wheel hub and brake component while the hub and braking component are mounted to a single work holding tool. In reading the Visser et al. teachings onto claims, the Examiner makes interpretations which Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner reads wheel end assembly 10 as corresponding to Applicants' outer ring main

body. It is respectfully submitted that only the hub 12 provides analogous correspondence. Also, the Examiner reads shoulder 30 at an outer diameter 28 of a cylindrical barrel section 22 as corresponding to Applicants' raceway at an inner peripheral surface of the outer ring's cylindrical main body. It is respectfully submitted that shoulder 30 is at an outer peripheral surface, not an inner peripheral surface. Further, the Examiner reads vehicle wheel 18 as corresponding to Applicants' flange. It is respectfully submitted that such wheel 18 is not part of an outer ring of a bearing device. Instead Visser et al. disclose a rotor mounting flange 24, (Col. 3, line 40).

It is noted that Visser et al. hold the hub 12 by holding the rotor hat section 54 of the braking component. Significantly, Visser et al. include a chuck 104 which grips the section 54 to hold the assembly 10 onto a locator 102. The chuck 104 also is used to rotate the assembly 10, (Col. 5, lines 16-22). Accordingly, the only restraint appears to be provided by the chuck 104. Thus, Visser et al. do not hold a radially-outward peripheral surface of a flange portion of an outer ring with a holding device.

The Claims Distinguished

Claim 1 distinguishes over the cited art based at least upon the following claim limitations:

- a cylindrical main body portion having a **raceway along an inner peripheral surface** thereof; and
- turning the cylindrical main body portion while **holding a radially-outward peripheral surface of the flange portion** with a holding device.

It is respectfully submitted that Visser et al. do not disclose a method for manufacturing an outer ring member of a bearing device in which a main body portion has a raceway along an inner peripheral surface. It is respectfully submitted that Visser et al. do not disclose a method in which a radially-outward peripheral surface of a flange portion of a bearing device's outer ring is held during a turning step.

Claims 4-5 ultimately depend from claim 1 and distinguish over the cited art for the same reasons as discussed for claim 1.

Claim 4 further distinguishes over the cited art based at least upon the following claim distinctions:

- **holding the flange portion at a plurality of positions** at an outer peripheral surface of the flange portion, the plurality of positions being **spaced to one another at circumferentially equal intervals** while the flange portion is held.

It is respectfully submitted that Visser et al. do not disclose holding a flange at a plurality of equally spaced positions.

Claim 5 further distinguishes over the cited art based at least upon the following claim distinctions:

- the flange portion comprises in a circumferential direction a **plurality of alternating large-diameter and small-diameter flange portions**, each large-diameter flange portion having a bolt hole,
- holding the flange portion with a plurality of holding parts, each **one of the plurality of holding parts comprising a recessed part recessed toward an outer-diameter side and having a dimension capable of housing one of the large-diameter flange portions on an inner-periphery side.**

It is respectfully submitted that Visser et al. do not disclose a method for manufacturing an outer ring having a flange portion with alternating large-diameter and small-diameter flange portions. It also is respectfully submitted that Visser et al. do not disclose multiple holding parts for holding a flange portion of an outer ring, where each holding part has a recess into which may be housed a large-diameter portion of the flange.

New Claims 6-9

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and distinguishes over the cited art at least for the same reasons as given for claim 1. Support for claim 6 is found in the specification at page 5, lines 15-18 and in Figure 1.

Claim 7 distinguishes over the cited art based at least upon the same reasons as original claim 2, and further based at least upon the following claim limitation:

- after the hole forming, turning a side surface of the flange on the vehicle-inner-side and an outer peripheral surface of the cylindrical fitting tolerance part to remove thermal strain and distortion which may have resulted from said hole forming.

Support for claim 7 is found at original claim 2 and in the specification at page 11, lines 10-18.

Claims 8-9 depend from claim 7 and distinguish over the cited art based at least upon the same reasons as claim 7. **Claim 8** further distinguishes over the cited art based at least on the same reasons discussed above for claim 4. **Claim 9** further distinguishes over the cited art based at least on the same reasons discussed above for claim 5, and based on the following claim limitations:

- wherein said flange holding further comprises **adjusting position of at least one of the plurality of holding parts**.

Support for claim 8 is found at original claim 4. Support for claim 9 is found at original claim 5 and in the specification at page 10, lines 21-23.

Applicants respectfully request a three month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of $1,110.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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